

# The Great Naadam Festival of Mongolia

Naadam Festival, the biggest festival in Mongolia. In the opening ceremony of the Naadam Festival, we will cheer on the dancers, athletes, wrestlers, archers, horse riders and musicians. Tour around Ulaanbaatar city, wander on the grassland, sleep in traditional Gers, devour Mongolian barbecue in the grasslands, what a joy and experience of Mongolia!

## **Day 1 06 Jul           Arrival Ulaanbaatar**

Arrive Ulaanbaatar today. You are met at the airport after custom formalities and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Check in at 4\* hotel in the city center for 1 night.

## **Day 2 07 Jul           Ulaanbaatar ⇄ Elsen Tasarkhai (Bayangobi)           Meal: B/L/D**

After breakfast, we travel overland for 4 hours westward towards Karakorum and break your journey in picturesque Bayan Gobi sand dunes or known as Elsen Tasarkhai, a common border between Tov, Ovorangeai and Bulgan provinces. In the afternoon, visit to Erdene Khamba Buddhist surviving temple from the Great Repression in 1930s in Hogno Khaan Nature Reserve Park which is surrounded with big rocky mountains. Optional camel-ride on the dunes. Overnight at the Hoyor Zagal Camp or similar.

## **Day 3 08 Jul           Elsen Tasarkhai ⇄ Karakorum           Meal: B/L/D**

This morning you'll make an early drive to the lost capital of Genghis Khan at Karakorum and visit the magnificent Erdene Zuu Monastery, where you will see a distinct mixing of the styles of Mongolian and Tibetan Buddhism. Karakorum was once the heart of the Mongol Empire and today, you'll still see remnants of the long standing walls that encircle the city. Also in the afternoon visit the newly established Karakorum Museum. Overnight at camp Munkh Tenger or similar.

## **Day 4 09 Jul           Karakorum ⇄ Hustai National Park           Meal: B/L/D**

Today, we drive back towards Ulaanbaatar with an overnight at Hustai national park. The national park is surrounded by mountains, thick pine forests and lush meadows which are home to the Przewalski endangered wild horse "Takhi" and other wildlife. Arrive at the ger camp by lunch. Then we trek through the national park to spot endangered Takhi wild horse in the afternoon. Optional horse ride. Overnight at a Ger.

## **Day 5 10 Jul           Hustai ⇄ Ulaanbaatar           Meal: B/L/D**

We drive to the east to Ulaanbaatar, arrive and start the city tour. The city tour of Ulaanbaatar takes you through some of the principal sights of this unique city. You visit the Gandan Monastery, housing a 26-meter-high gilded statue of the Buddha. Your tour also takes you to the Genghis Khan monument on the Sukhbaatar square and the Museum of National History. Afterwards visit the Giant Genghis Statue (1hr from Ulaanbaatar) and return to Ulaanbaatar by 7pm and transfer to the hotel. Rest and prepare for the Great Festival of the next day. This is a lifetime experience indeed and everyone wants to take part in it. The Mongols have the saying "If you be healthy, you will see the Naadam". Check in at Holiday Inn Hotel or similar.

## **Day 6 11 Jul           Naadam Festival – Opening Ceremony, wrestling, archery           Meal: B/L/D**

See the fantastic opening ceremony of Naadam festival and watch the first round of Wrestling, and then Archery and Ankle bone shooting competitions. Meals served at local restaurants and hotel overnight.

## **Day 7 12 Jul           Naadam Festival – Horse Racing           Meal: B/L/D**

Today we drive to the horse racing place to experience the Naadam Festival horse races. We will also visit the Bogd Khan's Palace Museum and see a traditional folk concert by magical Tumen Ekh ensemble. Meals served at local restaurants and hotel overnight.

## **Day 8 13 Jul           Ulaanbaatar           Meal: B**

Today is at leisure; you can explore more of the city at your own pace.

## **Day 9 14 Jul           Ulaanbaatar departure           Meal: B**

This morning is at leisure until you are transferred to the airport for your flight home bound.